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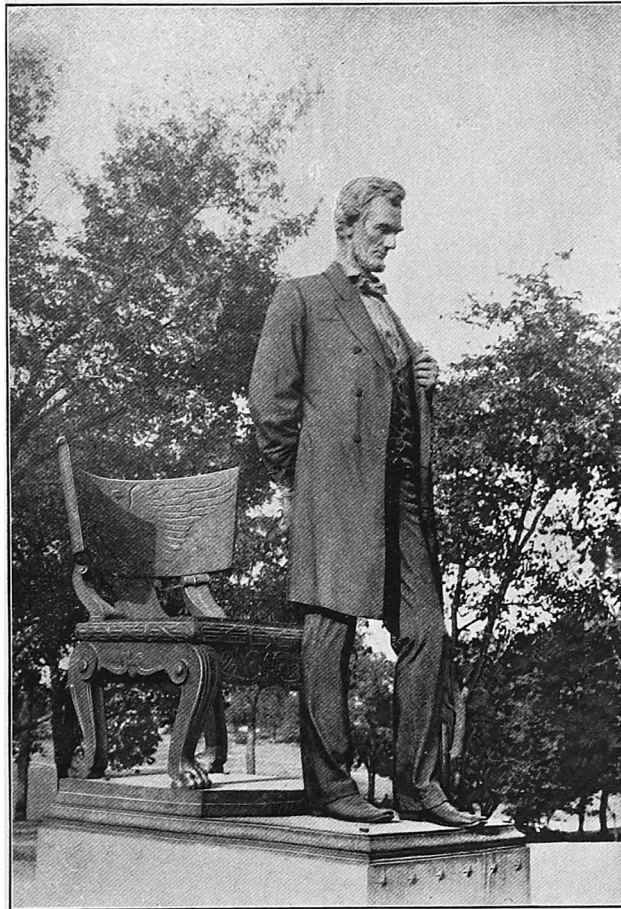
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ABRAHAM LINCOLN, BY A. ST. GAUDENS  
LINCOLN PARK, CHICAGO

REPRODUCED FROM LARGE PLATINOTYPE SUITABLE FOR SCHOOL-ROOM  
DECORATION. COURTESY OF W. SCOTT THURBER, CHICAGO

## THE CHICAGO PUBLIC SCHOOL ART SOCIETY

The Chicago Public School Art Society has been in existence nearly five years. It has supplied works of art (pictures and casts) from time to time to thirty-one schools. In placing these the society has given preference to the poorer districts of the city, where children are deprived of all natural beauty of surroundings and where the school stands as the representative of everything that is elevating and wholesome in their lives.

The influence of these works of historic interest and classic beauty has been felt by both teachers and pupils. One teacher whose walls had been decorated by the society, said: "Now I must take down my Tribune pictures." We have been gratified by the general disposition among the teachers to raise the standard of their decorations as our works are placed in their rooms.

The educational and ethical influence upon the children is unquestioned. One principal asked that the Christ-Child be placed in her seventh grade, saying: "It is so needed there." Another begged for a Madonna to be hung in the room where the roughest boys were seated.

It is the aim of the society to place at least one good picture or cast in every school room in the city. But with four thousand rooms it is plainly impossible to accomplish this until ample funds are at our disposal. In some cases it has been thought best to furnish an "art room" where several pictures and casts are hung with suitable surroundings, tinted walls, etc., and to which the children are taken by a teacher, who points out the beauties, and explains the meaning of each work. The halls are sometimes used instead of recitation rooms in order that all may see the pictures.

The society loaned fifty pictures and casts to the vacation schools held last summer. Their unusual excellence was noted by the many visitors and was in harmony with the character of the work undertaken in these schools. Two exhibitions were held during the year, one at the rooms of the Chicago Woman's Club, the other at the Art



SIR GALAHAD, BY GEORGE F. WATTS

REPRODUCED FROM A PLATINOTYPE  
COURTESY OF W. SCOTT THURBER, CHICAGO

Institute, during the meeting of the Illinois Federation of Women's Clubs. A reception held at the home of Mrs. John Buckingham, brought together many friends of the society. Addresses were made by Mrs. Judah, Miss Locke, Mr. Mack of Aurora, Professor Triggs and others.

The magnitude of the work undertaken by this organization has been referred to. The annual membership fee of one dollar gives a small sum for general expenses and the purchase of pictures. Life members are admitted on the payment of twenty-five dollars. A club or a department of a club contributing fifty dollars is entitled to a representative on the executive board. The society has also arranged that any organization giving ten dollars shall be permitted to designate the school upon which such sum shall be expended. The impossibility of carrying on this work with any degree of success without liberal financial aid, must be clearly seen. It grows upon our hands, and becomes imperative, as school after school in our crowded districts begs us to send it something in the line of art. Teachers and principals are becoming alive to the necessity for attractive surroundings. One assistant grade teacher said that it was more important for her to have a copy of Sargent's "Prophets" in her school room than to have a winter cloak.

The pictures are chosen with great care by women who recognize the inspiration of perfect beauty as a vital factor in education. Therefore they select the works (replicas) of the greatest artists, just as teachers give to their classes the masterpieces of literature. The picture that has a "story to tell" is usually the favorite. Among these are Watts' "Sir Galahad," the Shaw Memorial and the Fitzroy prints.

Through the influence of the society the walls of the school rooms are being tinted suitable shades as fast as they need renovation.—*From the Society's Annual Report.*

The officers are, president, Mrs. John B. Sherwood, 530 W. Monroe Street; vice-president, Mrs. Henry W. Magee; recording secretary, Mrs. Henry E. Southwell; corresponding secretary, Mrs. W. T. Hall, 3519 Calumet Avenue; treasurer, Mrs. John Buckingham



## BOSTON LETTER

There has been a succession of feasts for the eyes this month in the galleries, so there has been little time for general studio visiting. Some of the exhibitions would, from the names represented, be regarded as important, and all had something to make them interesting. There is an exhibit of European masters which is impressive in its list of names, though one can admire only with some reservations,